

Vacancy Announcement



U.S. Embassy Iraq

NUMBER: 09-27	SUBJECT: Information Assistant LES-8	DATE: 07-30-2009
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TO: All Interested Applicants

FROM: Human Resources Office

OPENING DATE: July 30, 2009

CLOSING DATE: August 13, 2009

WORK HOURS: Full time; 40 hours/week

BASIC SALARY: 24,086 U.S. dollars per year for a full time LES-8.

The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad is seeking an individual to fill the position of **Information Assistant** in the **Public Affairs Section**.

ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE ORDINARILY RESIDENT* IN IRAQ AND IN POSSESSION OF OR ABLE TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTATION THAT ALLOWS THEM TO BE LEGALLY EMPLOYED (I.E., IN COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL IRAQI EMPLOYMENT LAWS) BY THE U.S. EMBASSY. EMPLOYEES AT THE U.S. EMBASSY ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY IF THEY HAVE COMPLETED THEIR PROBATIONARY PERIOD (52 WEEKS).

BASIC FUNCTION OF THE POSITION:

Incumbent works under the general guidance of the Assistant Information Officer (AIO) and supports the media analysis and media monitoring unit through the production of media products and by maintaining contacts within the Iraqi and pan-Arab media outlets based in Baghdad. Under the direction of the AIO, monitors the local media for stories pertaining to U.S. Government interests, translates them and reports to the AIO. Drafts media reaction reports and supports the AIO in the execution of media outreach functions. The Assistant develops and maintains good working relations with contacts within the Iraqi and pan-Arab media present in Iraq. Other duties include transcription of interviews and press briefings, translation as required and reporting at the direction of the AIO. The incumbent is expected to display initiative and exercise team spirit, following up on assigned tasks and anticipating the needs of the Section as a whole during busy periods and in the absence of Public Affairs staff. Because of the public nature of public diplomacy work, good judgment is expected at all times.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED: Each applicant must address each selection criterion detailed below specifically and comprehensively, in addition to submitting a CV/résumé or an OF-612 form.

1. **Education:** College Degree in Journalism, English, Communications, Political Science, International Relations, American Studies, or a similar/related field is required.

2. **Work Experience:** Three years of progressively responsible experience in the communications media as a journalist, radio broadcaster, writer, public relations or advertising specialist, or a combination of similar, related experience is required.
3. **Language Proficiency:** English Level III (Good Working Knowledge) and Arabic Level IV (Fluent) is required. Ability to write and speak in both languages.

(Candidates will be tested on their language skills).

4. **Knowledge:** Ability to develop and maintain intermediate-level contacts in the media and in government, professional, and information circles is required. Ability to plan, arrange and execute one or more segments of the overall information program is required. Creative ability and imagination in planning, researching, writing and producing informational materials and programs is required. Sound intellectual, professional and political judgment in order to advise on selection and release of materials to the public and the news media is required.
5. **Abilities and Skills:** Excellent oral and written communication and time management skills are required.

SELECTION PROCESS: When fully qualified, US Citizen Eligible Family Members (USEFMs) and US Veterans are given preference. Therefore, it is essential that the candidate specifically address the required qualifications above in the application.

ADDITIONAL SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Management will consider nepotism/ conflict of interest, budget and visa status in determining successful candidacy.
- Current employees serving a probationary period are not eligible to apply.
- Current Ordinarily Resident employees with an Overall Summary Rating of Needs Improvement or Unsatisfactory on their most recent Employee Performance Report are not eligible to apply.
- Currently employed US Citizen EFMs who hold a Family Member Appointment (FMA) are ineligible to apply for advertised positions within the first 90 calendar days of their employment.
- Currently employed NORs hired under a Personal Services Agreement (PSA) are ineligible to apply for advertised positions within the first 90 calendar days of their employment unless currently hired into a position with a When Actually Employed (WAE) work schedule.
- Must be able to obtain and hold a security clearance certification.
- Under PSA-Plus guidelines, non-host country citizens (American and foreign nationals) must have a host country visa status, which will permit them to obtain work.

TO APPLY: Interested candidates for this position should submit the following:

State on the application that the position applied for is **Information Assistant 09-27**.

- Application for US Federal Employment (SF-171 or OF-612); or a current resume or curriculum vitae that provides the same information as an OF-612.
- Documentation (copies of degrees earned, certificates, awards, etc.) that addresses the qualification required for the position as listed above.
- Candidates who claim US Veterans preference must provide a copy of their Form DD-214 with their application.

Human Resources Office,
E-mail: BaghdadHR@state.gov

- * **Preferred way of sending applications is electronically.**
- * **Must attach certificates and documents to the CV/resume.**
- * **Must mention position title and announcement number applied to.**
- * **Attached pictures will be discarded**

DEFINITIONS:

1. US Citizen Eligible Family Member (USEFM) – For purposes of receiving a preference in hiring for a qualified position, an EFM who meets the following criteria:

- US Citizen; and,
- EFM (see above) at least 18 years old; and,
- Listed on the travel orders of a direct-hire Foreign, Civil, or uniformed service member assigned to or stationed abroad with a USG agency that is under COM authority, or at an office of the American Institute in Taiwan; and either:
 1. Resides at the sponsoring employee's or uniformed service member's post of assignment abroad or at an office of the American Institute in Taiwan; or
 2. Resides at an Involuntary Separate Maintenance Allowance (ISMA) location authorized under 3 FAM 3232.2

2. EFM: An individual related to a US Government employee in one of the following ways:

- Spouse;
- Child, who is unmarried and under 21 years of age or, regardless of age, is incapable of self-support. The term shall include, in addition to natural offspring, stepchildren and adopted children and those under legal guardianship of the employee or the spouse when such children are expected to be under such legal guardianship until they reach 21 years of age and when dependent upon and normally residing with the guardian;
- Parent (including stepparents and legally adoptive parents) of the employee or of the spouse, when such parent is at least 51 percent dependent on the employee for support;
- Sister or brother (including stepsisters and stepbrothers, or adoptive sisters or brothers) of the employee, or of the spouse, when such sibling is at least 51 percent dependent on the employee for support, unmarried, and under 21 years of age, or regardless of age, incapable of self-support.

3. Member of Household (MOH) – An individual who accompanies a direct-hire Foreign, Civil, or uniformed service member permanently assigned or stationed at a U.S. Foreign Service post or establishment abroad, or at an office of the American Institute in Taiwan. An MOH is:

- Not an EFM; and,
- Not on the travel orders of the sponsoring employee; and,

has been officially declared by the sponsoring USC employee to the COM as part of his/her household.

A MOH is under COM authority and may include a parent, unmarried partner, other relative or adult child who falls outside the Department's current legal and statutory definition of family member. A MOH does not have to be a US Citizen.

4. Not Ordinarily Resident (NOR) – An individual who:

- Is not a citizen of the host country; and,
- Does not ordinarily reside (OR, see below) in the host country; and,
- Is not subject to host country employment and tax laws; and,
- Has a US Social Security Number (SSN).

NOR employees are compensated under a GS or FS salary schedule, not under the LCP.

5. Ordinarily Resident (OR) – A Foreign National or US citizen who:

- Is locally resident; and,
- Has legal, permanent resident status within the host country; and,
- Is subject to host country employment and tax laws.

EFMs without US Social Security Numbers are also OR. All OR employees, including US citizens, are compensated in accordance with the LCP.

**Closing Date for this Position is
August 13, 2009**

The US Mission in Baghdad provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, color religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation. The Department of State also strives to achieve equal employment opportunity in all personnel operations through continuing diversity enhancement programs.

Approved: HRO/CWJ
Cleared: PRO/SM
Drafted: HRA/YAK